

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 AID-05 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04

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TAGS: SENV, EAID, UNEP

SUBJ: UNEP EXDIR REPORT ON PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION - MEASURES TO BENEFIT SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION

REF NAIROBI 7038

1. SUMMARY: UNEP EXDIR TOLBA, IN SUBJECT DOCUMENT REQUESTING GC DECISION ON THREE ALTERNATIVE INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION. USDEL URGENTLY NEEDS DEPT GUIDANCE FOR PREPARATION U.S. RESPONSE DURING SCHEDULED PLENARY DISCUSSION MAY 17. END SUMMARY.

2. EXDIR TOLBA, IN REPORT RELEASED MAY 10, SEEKING GC DECISION ON THREE ALTERNATIVE INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION. REPORT CITES, INTER ALIA, FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES TO BE PURSUED ON A REGIONAL LEVEL BY AN APPROPRIATE REGIONAL INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM:

(A) TO CO-ORDINATE ANTI-DESERTIFICATION PROGRAMMES WITHIN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION, KEEP THEIR IMPLEMENTATION UNDER REVIEW AND ASSESS THEIR EFFECTIVENESS;

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(B) TO PROVIDE GENERAL POLICY GUIDANCE FOR THE DIRECTION AND CO-ORDINATION OF ANTI-DESERTIFICATION PROGRAMMES WITHIN THE REGION;

(C) TO ENCOURAGE AND CO-ORDINATE ASSISTANCE FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, MULTILATERAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL DONORS

TO THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION;

(D) TO CO-ORDINATE THE ANTI-DESERTIFICATION ACTIVITIES
OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REGION;

(E) TO ORGANIZE AND CO-ORDINATE, THROUGH, AMONG OTHER MEANS,
THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR DESERTIFICATION CONTROL, SPEEDY
IMPLEMENTATION IN THE REGION OF TRANSNATIONAL PROJECTS TO
COMBAT DESERTIFICATION STARTING, IF SO AGREED BY THE GOVERN-
MENTS CONCERNED WITH ONE OR BOTH OF THE TWO PROJECTS
CONCERNING THE REGION SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION, NAMELY:

(I) SAHEL GREET BELT;

(II) MANAGEMENT OF LIVESTOCK AND RANGELANDS TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION (SOLAR); AND

(F) TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF NEW TRANSNATIONAL PROJECTS
IN THE REGION, INCLUDING TRAINING, AND ORGANIZE THE FORMULA-
TION OF THE MOBILIZATION OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT NEEDED FOR
THE SUBSEQUENT IMPLEMENTATION OF SUCH PROJECTS.

3. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION CITED AS ONE OF PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS
OF THE PROPOSED INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM AS FOLLOWS:

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QUOTE - ALL PROJECTS THUS IDENTIFIED, FORMULATED AND APPROVED
BY THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED WILL BE PRESENTED FOR
FINANCING TO THE DONOR COMMUNITY, EITHER BY THE GOVERNMENTS
OR BY THE INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM, THROUGH ALL POSSIBLE
CHANNELS, INCLUDING THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOR DESERTIFI-
CATION CONTROL. THE MECHANISM WILL UNDERTAKE ALL NECESSARY
ACTION WITH THE INTERESTED DONORS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE
PROJECT FINANCING. PROJECTS CONCERNIN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN
REGION MAY BE FINANCED BILATERALLY, MULTILATERALLY OR THROUGH
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS TRUST FUND FOR SUDANO-
SAHELIAN ACTIVITIES, AS WELL AS THROUGH A VARIETY OF CON-
SORTIUM ARRANGEMENTS AND MULTI-BILATERAL EFFORTS. THE
TRUST FUND WILL CONTINUE TO BE MANAGED IN FULL CONFORMITY
WITH THE RELEVANT UNITED NATIONS RULES AND REGULATIONS.
END QUOTE.

4. ALTERNATIVE INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS PRESENTED TO
GC FOR DECISION ARE:

(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF SUB-REGIONAL OFFICE OF UNEP IN SUDANO-
SAHELIAN REGION;

(B) EXPANSION OF UN SAHELIAN OFFICE (UNSO) INTO A JOINT
UNDP/UNEP VENTURE; OR

(C) ESTABLISHMENT OF A MULTINATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND
OPERATIONAL CENTRE IN THE SUDANO-SAHELIAN REGION SIMILAR
IN CONCEPT TO THE ECA SUBREGIONAL OFFICES THAT ARE BEING
CONVERTED INTO MULTINATIONAL PROGRAMMING AND OPERATIONAL
CENTRES FINANCED BY UNDP.

5. ACCORDING EXDIR'S REPORT, ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR ANY
OF THE THREE MECHANISMS FOR A FULLY OPERATIONAL YEAR WOULD
BE APPROXIMATELY \$800,000.

6. USDEL REQUESTS DEPT GUIDANCE ASAP FOR U.S. RESPONSE
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DURING SCHEDULED PLENARY DISCUSSION OF REPORT MAY 17.
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